

# P-PATCH COMMUNITY GARDENING PROGRAM

## 2012 FACT SHEET

***The P-Patch Community Gardening Program is made up of community managed open spaces in Seattle neighborhoods. Gardeners, individually and collectively, use plots of land to grow organic food, flowers, fruits, and herbs.***

***The gardens are open to the public to enjoy. Each garden is different and their amenities may include picnic areas, benches, art, flower gardens, educational signage, sustainability demonstrations, and children's gardens.***

### PROGRAM DETAILS

The P-Patch Community Gardening Program is managed by the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods in partnership with the P-Patch Trust, a non-profit corporation. Presently there are 81 P-Patch community gardens, 2,650 plots, and 6,100 gardeners.

P-Patch gardens have a diverse history and serve diverse needs. The first garden, Picardo Farm, was created in 1973 by a group of community residents and the city of Seattle. Since then, gardens have rapidly grown and continue to do so. Gardens are built on public property owned by various city departments and other public and private owners. Gardens range from small to large, and cooperative style (shared plots) to individual low-income farmers.

Oldest Site: Picardo Farm (2.5 acres)

Largest Site: Thistle (3+ acres)

18 Sites with ADA accessible raised beds

Newest Site: Leo St in Rainier Beach

Smallest Site: Pelican Tea Collective

Three Market Gardens



### P-PATCH COMMUNITY GARDENING PROGRAM SUCCEEDS THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

In addition to Seattle Department of Neighborhoods' work, P-Patch community gardens thrive through the dedication of many organizations and through the gardeners themselves.

- 6100 gardeners who volunteer more than 21,933 hours annually (equivalent to 11 full-time staff).
- P-Patch Trust Board.
- Solid Ground's Lettuce Link.
- Seattle Tilth.



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## Seattle Department of Neighborhoods

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### **MORE PROGRAM FACTS**

#### **P-PATCH COMMUNITY GARDENS ARE POPULAR**

Demand is high; staff is working hard to grow capacity, as well as support other community gardening efforts:

- 1,000+ people on Interest list (as of December 2012).
- Waiting time is between 3 months and 4 years.
- Annual turnover across whole program averages 25%.
- 10 P-Patches are currently being planned, designed, or constructed.



#### **P-PATCH MANAGES SPECIAL PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH, LOW-INCOME, AND UNDERREPRESENTED POPULATIONS**

For example, the **Market Garden Program** serves low income and immigrant families living in South Park and Seattle Housing Authority properties to garden and sell their produce to local residents. In 2012, 16 gardeners, speaking 8 languages, collaborated to provide produce in a variety of ways: at farm stands, for senior centers, and with community-supported agriculture (CSA).

#### **Garden Fees**

Garden plots run in different sizes:

10 x 10 – \$37

10 x 20 – \$49

10 x 40 – \$73

Financial assistance is available for those who can't afford plot fees

In addition to the annual fee, eight hours of volunteer time is required to maintain public areas of the P-Patch.

#### **GARDENERS SUPPORT FOOD BANKS**

- 40% of gardeners donate at least once a month.
- Many gardens have a designated “giving garden” plot. Its food is for food banks and hot meal programs.
- Gardeners donated nearly 21,000 pounds of produce in 2011.

#### **GARDENERS ARE DIVERSE**

In 2010: 70% were low income.  
27% were people of color.  
46% live in apartments.  
73% had no gardening space where they live.

#### **NEW GARDENS OPENED IN 2012—MORE TO COME**

With \$2 million from the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy, P-Patch community gardens are growing. In partnership with community volunteers, the program leveraged its original funding for four gardens to build 17 new gardens and expand 5 existing gardens by 2014. Community members also work to develop gardens on their own with support from the P-Patch staff and Seattle Department of Neighborhoods Neighborhood Matching Fund.

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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